

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 USIA-12 DODE-00 INR-10 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 /037 W

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R 182227 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9643

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2302

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC BL

SUBJ: IV NOMINEE MAJOR GARY PRADO SALMON

REF: STATE 63575

1. MISSION FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT MAJOR PRADO IS FULLY QUALIFIED FOR IV AWARD, AND AS SUPPLEMENTARY TO JUSTIFICATION SENT REFTEL OFFERS FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR JUSTIFICATION.

2. MAJOR PRADO IS THE RECOGNIZED LEADER OF THE YOUNG, MIDDLE GRADE OFFICER GROUP WHICH EXERCISES A STRONG POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON PRESIDENTIAL, AND CONSEQUENTLY ON GOB, DECISIONS, BOTH OF A MILITARY AND CIVILIAN NATURE. WE BELIEVE THAT PRADO WILL DEFINITELY OCCUPY A CIVILIAN POSITION OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL WITHIN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, AND WE ALSO CONSIDER THERE TO BE A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL ONE DAY BECOME PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIA. IN VIEW OF HIS PRESENT POSITION AS LEADER OF AN IMPORTANT PRESSURE GROUP INFLUENCING OVERALL GOB POLICIES, HIS LIKELIHOOD OF OCCUPYING A HIGH LEVEL CIVILIAN TYPE POSITION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND AS PRESIDENTIAL MATERIAL WE BELIEVE IT IMPERATIVE THAT HE RECEIVE A CIVILIAN STYLED ORIENTATION OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE PRESENT TIME WHILE HE STILL IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE OF HIS BASIC POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.

3. WE HAVE EXPLORED ALL AVENUES FOR MILITARY FUNDING AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT NO MILITARY FUNDING SOURCES ARE AVAILABLE WHICH CAN PROVIDE THE CIVILIAN TYPE ORIENTATION WHICH WE FEEL IS NEEDED.

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4. MAJOR PRADO WILL BE ARRIVING MIAMI MAY 21 AS AIDE-- DE-- CAMP TO BOLIVIAN ARMED FORCES COMMANDER IN CHIEF GENERAL ZENTENO ANAYA, WHO IS VISITING THE UNITED STATES AS AN OFFICIAL GUEST OF DOD. GENERAL ZENTENO IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART MIAMI FOR BOLIVIA ON MAY 31. WE BELIEVE MAJOR PRADO'S PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES, ALREADY FUNDED FROM MILITARY SOURCES, OFFERS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE CIVILIAN ORIENTATION WHICH WE DESIRE. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT THE IV GRANT BE AWARDED TO MAJOR PRADO BEGINNING ON MAY 31. THE AWARD AT THAT TIME WILL ENABLE HIM TO MORE FULLY APPRECIATE THE CIVILIAN ORIENTATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT, COMING AS IT WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AN INTENSIVE EXPOSURE TO HIGHEST LEVEL U. S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND PRACTICES. AS NOTED, THE TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE BEEN FINANCED BY MILITARY FUNDS.

5. REQUEST APPROVAL ASAP SO THAT APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR MAJOR PRADO TO OBTAIN GOB AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXTENSION OF HIS STAY IN THE U. S.

BREWIN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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